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NSC BRIEFING

7 NOVEMBER 1956

EAST EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

I. Although a few isolated pockets of resistance remain in Hungary, the two-week-old Hungarian revolt is now dead.

A. Sov repression was ruthless, brutal.

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Our Budapest Legation has eye-

witnessed Sov slaughter of women, children. Legation reports that, despite protests of Western diplomats, Sov troops fired on children's Clinic in process storming one rebel stronghold, "cremating some babies" as result.

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B. Dawn of 4 Nov, Sov units jumped off--attacked Budapest and other cities. Hungarian military leaders arrested in midst of negotiations with Sovs.

C. By 0800 that morning, Sovs had seized Parliament building in Budapest, captured Nagy, several other ministers.

II. New Hungarian regime--"Workers and Peasants Revolutionary Government", under János Kadar--proclaimed by Sovs simultaneous with attack.

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NSA review completed

- A. Kadar, former bitter enemy of Hungary's "little Stalin", Rakosi, had been purged in '51, rehabilitated in '54-5, and was established as "national" Communist leader in Politburo and Party Secretariat by time of revolt.
1. On 25 Oct., he replaced the hard-line Gero as Party First Secretary.
 2. On 1 Nov, in "victorious" phase of revolt, Party changed name to "Socialist Workers' Party" and Kadar became head of new Presidium.
- B. Having now ridden to power on Sov tanks, Kadar has lost any hope of popular support, Nonetheless, within Hungary's Communist Party, there is no other "national" Communist of equal stature who is also acceptable to Sovs.
1. Thus, Kadar can count on some Party support in bitter days of "reconstruction" ahead.
- C. Kadar's regime has issued Gomulka-like "16 point" program for Hungary--on paper, this looks much like what Party "liberals" stood for before revolt.
- D. Regime also shrilly insistent that Hungary remains free and sovereign state.
- III. Thus, evident that long-range Sov policy toward Hungary is based on hope that Kadar can bring about workable Gomulka-like policy. As bait for dissident Hungarians, Kadar promises:
- A. Gov't representation for "other parties", non-Party interests.
 - B. Increased worker participation in factory management.

C. Nonetheless, this breed of "national" Communism and "independence" has come into being at the USSR's bidding, and Sov Blood-bath has put it in power.

D. Kadar has acted as a Sov agent and will be powerless to leave that role for a long time.

IV. In the other Eastern European Satellites, the bloody establishment of Kadar's regime has received stamp of official approval. Only Poland and Rumania have deviated from Soviet line, and they only so far as to ignore rather than endorse use of Soviet forces to overthrow Hungary's rebels.

A. Poland--caught between popular pressures for greater freedom and Sov demands for continued adherence to Bloc policy--now taking cautious course. Polish leaders must hope that "lesson" of Hungary will not be lost on restive population.

B. Outside Bloc, Yugoslavia's initial reaction "regretted" Sov use of force, but has "welcomed" Kadar regime as exponent of "democratic socialism", which the Yugo--echoing Moscov--claim had been abandoned by Nagy.

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